



# Family Dependency Courts: Outcomes and Best Practices - A Tale of Two FDC's



*Informing policy,  
improving programs*

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# **A PROCESS, OUTCOME AND COST STUDY OF TWO OREGON FAMILY DRUG TREATMENT COURTS**

**Marion County Fostering Attachment  
Treatment Court  
(Implemented January 2006)**

**Jackson County Community Family Court  
(Implemented July 2001)**

**This study was conducted through funding from the Bureau of  
Justice Assistance (Byrne) and the Oregon Criminal Justice  
Commission**



# **A PROCESS, OUTCOME AND COST STUDY OF TWO OREGON FAMILY DRUG TREATMENT COURTS**

- **Sample of drug court participants who entered over two-year time period**
- **Matched sample of parents with dependency cases**
  - Demographics, age at first use, # of children, ages of children, prior tx, prior criminal history**
- **Tracked drug & alcohol treatment, child welfare and criminal justice recidivism**
  - **Two years in Marion**
  - **Four years in Jackson**

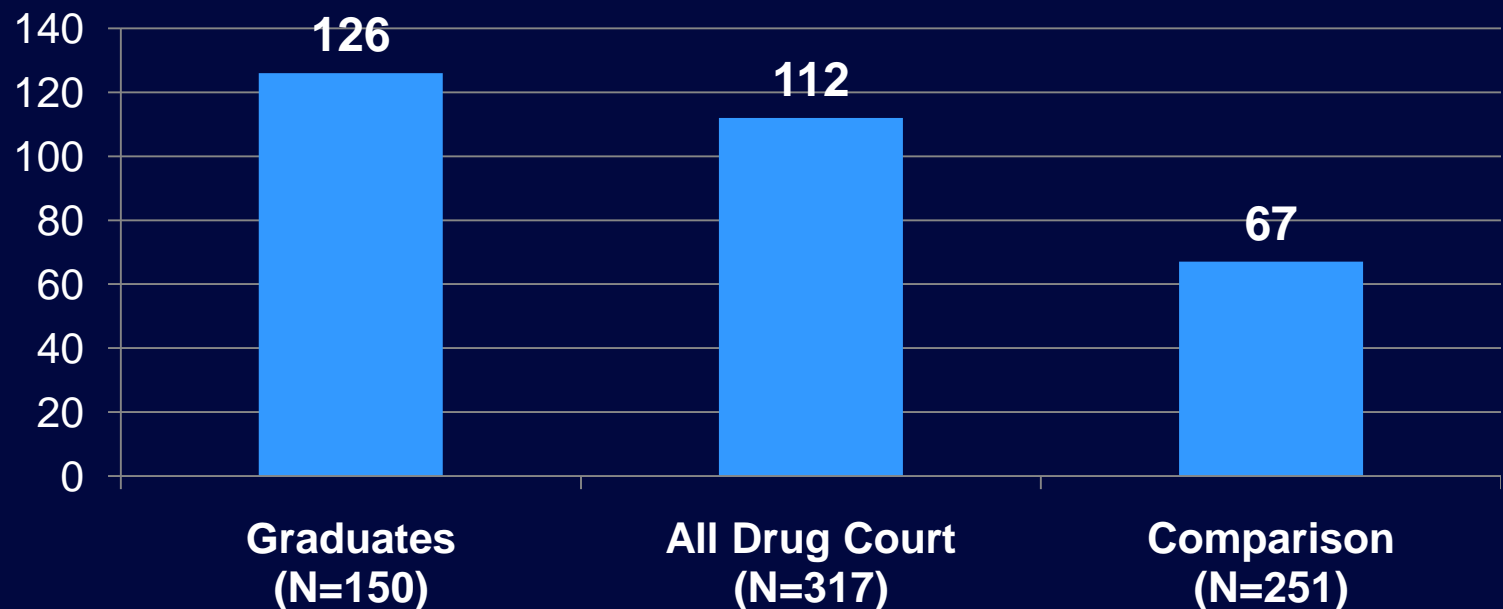


# Do FDTC parents stay in treatment longer than non-FDTC parents?

(JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON)

**YES.** In the year after drug court entry, the FDTC program parents spent nearly twice as long in treatment than parents who did not participate in the program.

## Days in Outpatient Drug Treatment



**Note:** Difference is significant at  $p < .01$

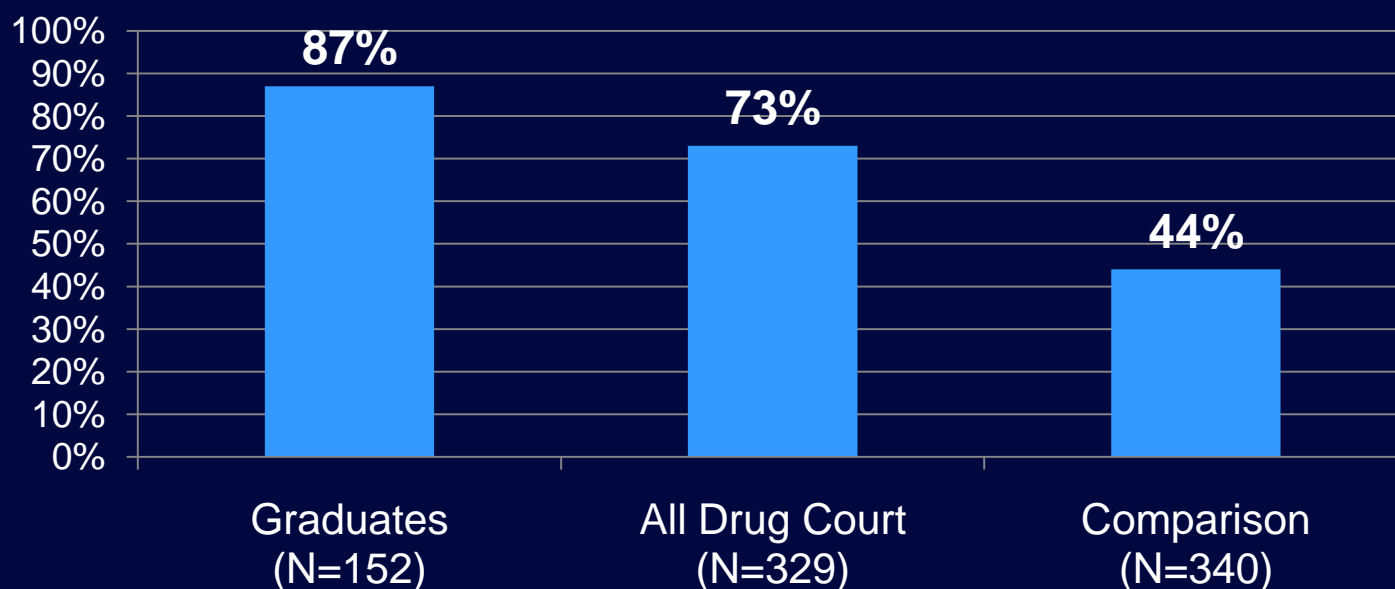


# Do FDTC parents complete treatment more often than non-FDTC parents?

(JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON)

**YES.** Significantly more FDTC program parents successfully completed treatment after program entry compared to parents who did not participate in the FDTC.

**Percent of Parents that Successfully Completed a Treatment Episode**



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .01$**

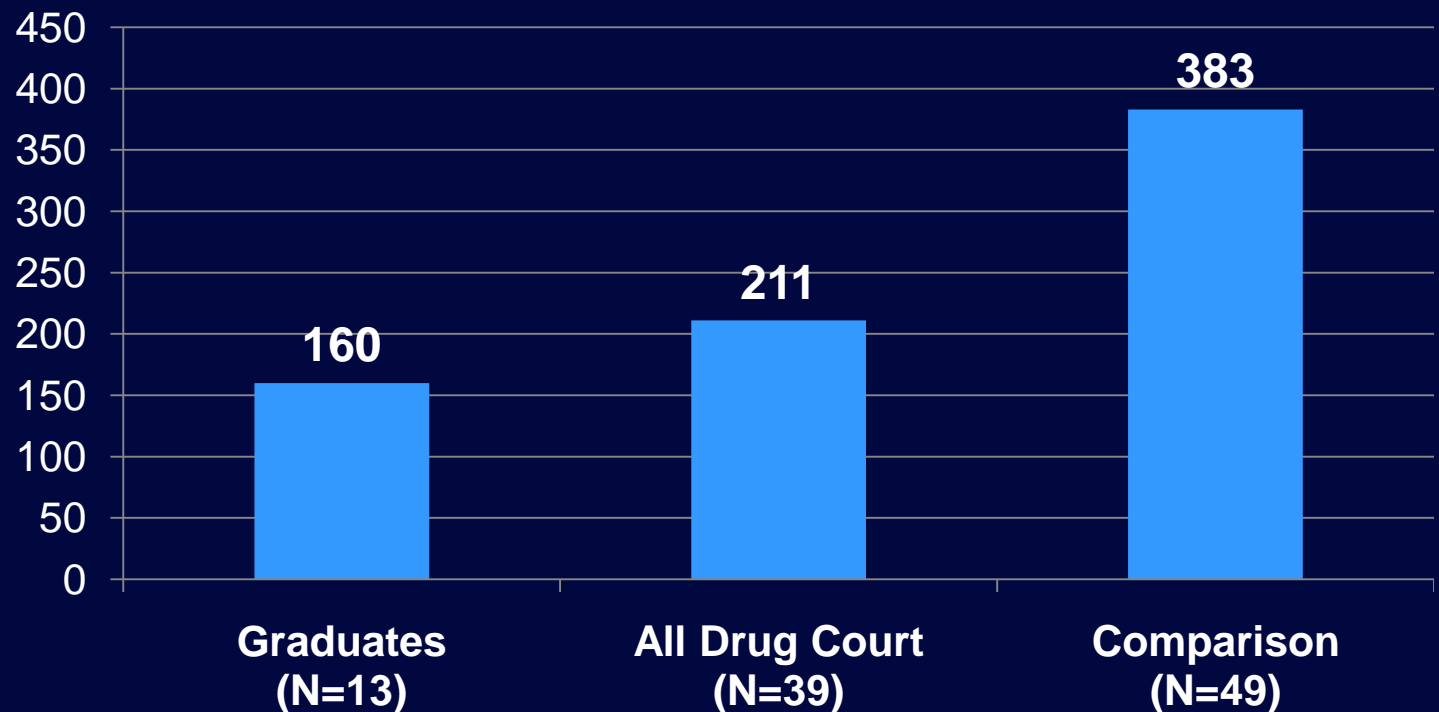


# Do children of parents who participate in FDTC spend less time in foster care?

(MARION COUNTY, OREGON)

**YES.** Children of FDTC parents spent significantly less time in foster care in the 2 years after drug court entry than children of non-FATC parents.

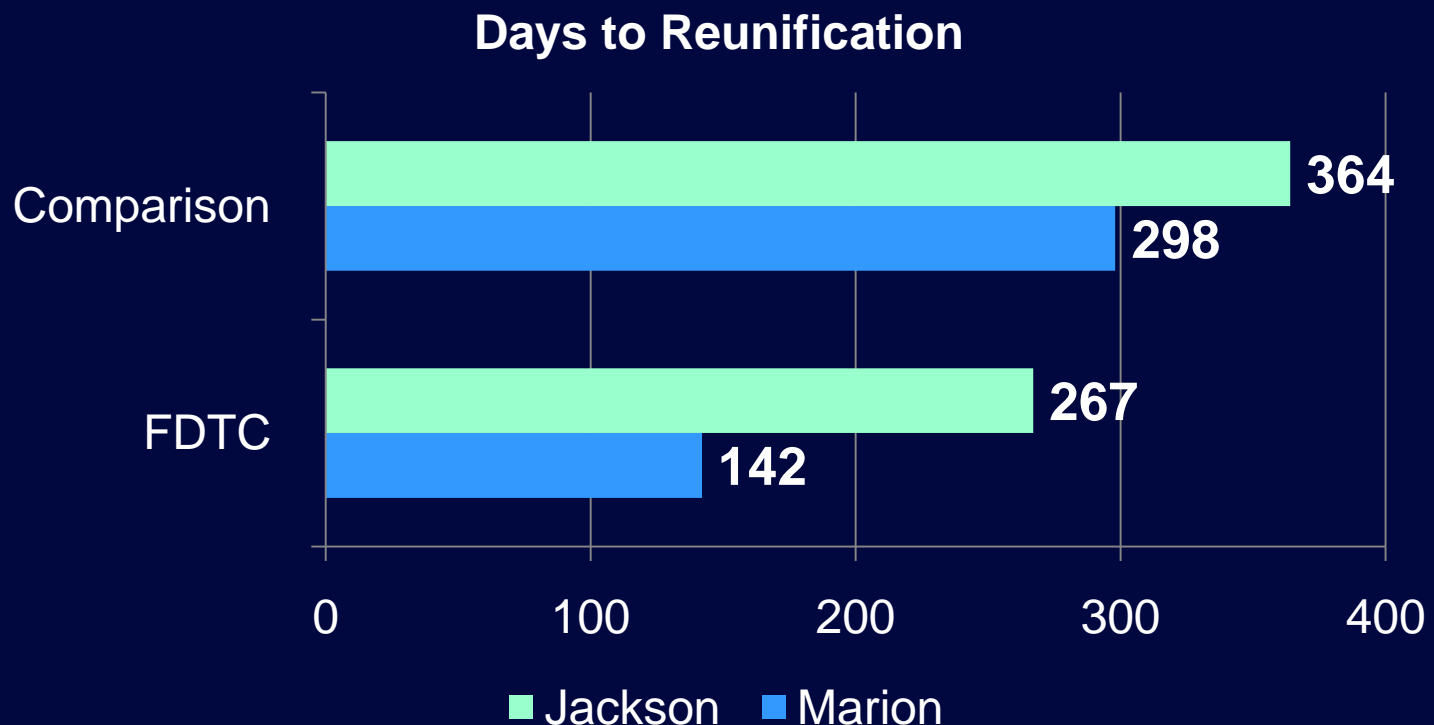
**Days in Foster Care per Child**



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .01$**

# Are FTC children returned to their parents more quickly after drug court start?

**YES.** Children whose parents participated in the FATIC program were returned in less than half the time than children whose parents did not participate.

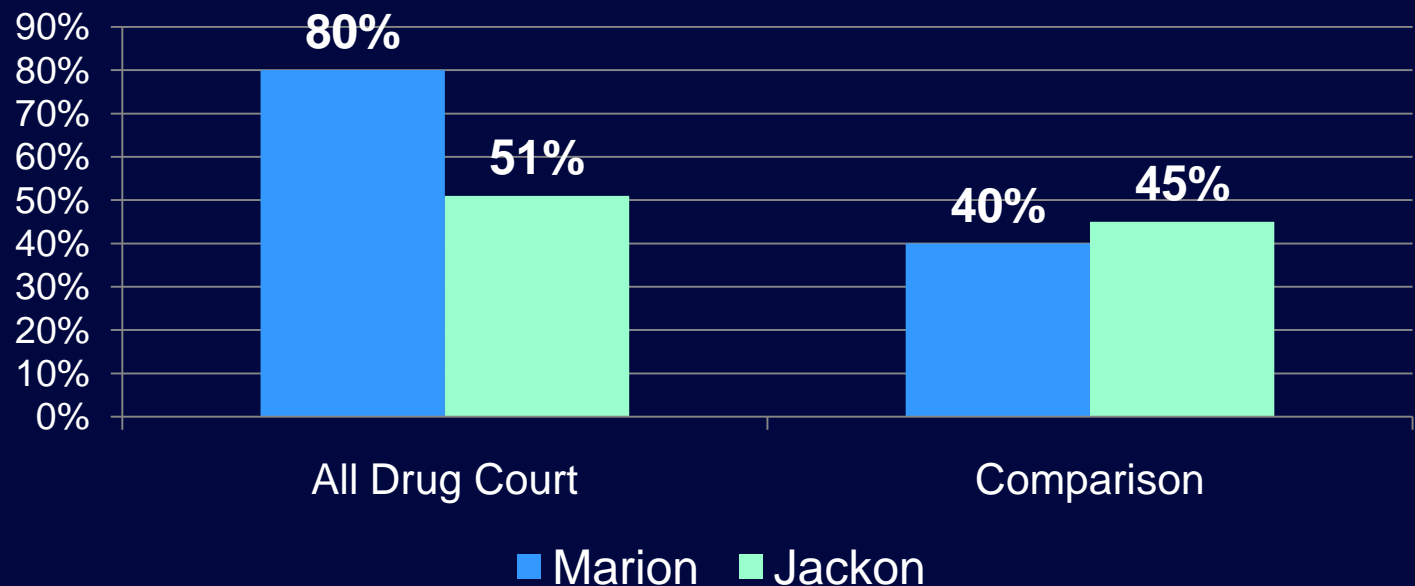


**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .01$**

# Are FDTC parents reunified with their children more often?

**YES.** FDTC parents were reunified with their children significantly more often while experiencing significantly fewer adoptions and termination of parental rights.

**Percent of Parents that were Reunified with Their Children**



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .01$**

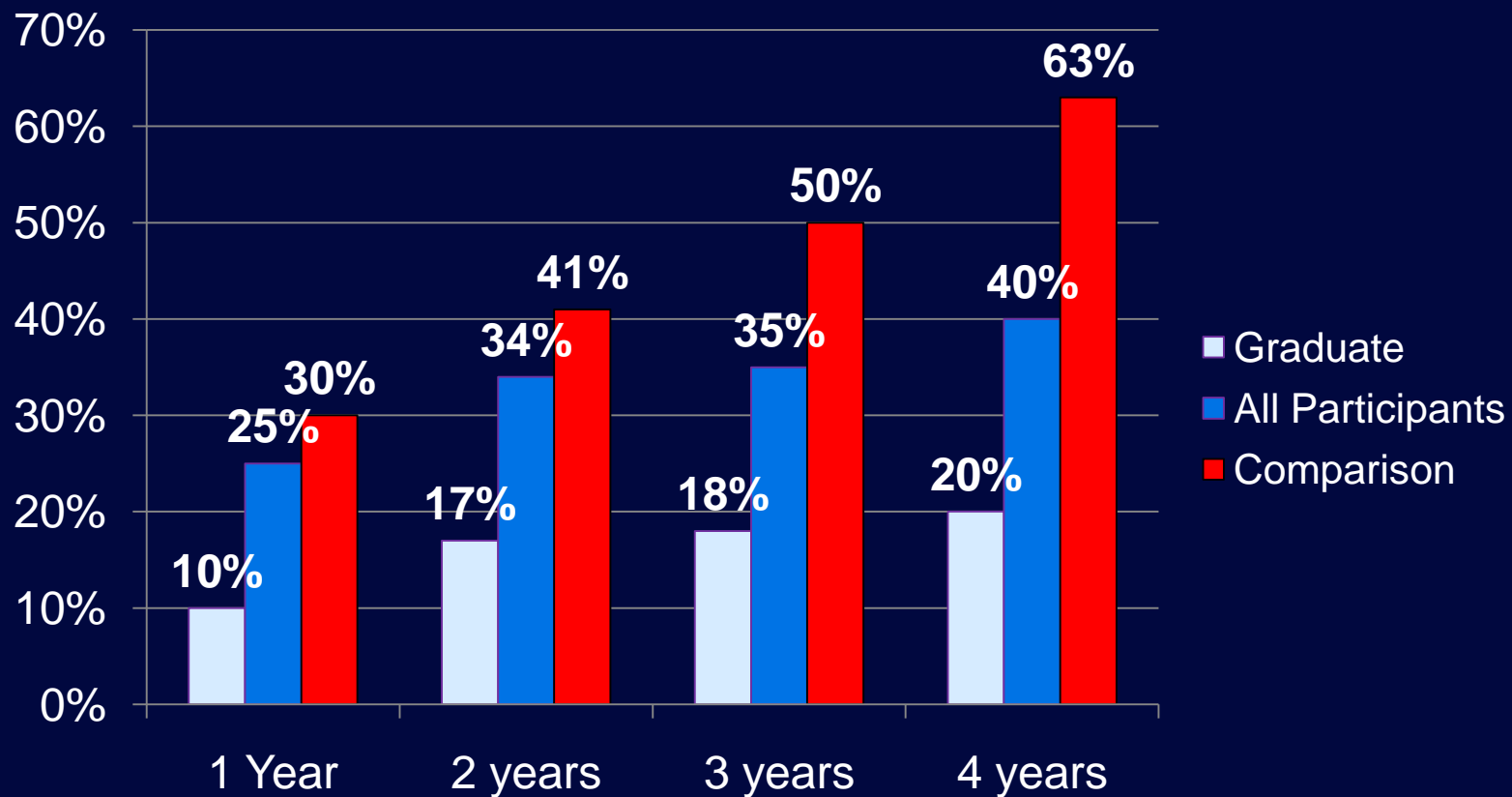




# Do FDC parents have fewer subsequent arrests than non-FDC parents?

(JACKSON COUNTY, OREGON)

**YES.** Drug court participants were re-arrested significantly less often than the comparison group over 4 years from drug court entry.



**Note: Difference is significant at  $p < .01$**



# PROGRAM COST PER PARTICIPANT

## JACKSON COUNTY

Transaction	Transaction unit cost	Average number of transactions per CFC participant	Average cost per CFC participant (n = 278)
CFC Court Appearances	\$190.04	14.36	\$2,729
Case Management	\$8.83	423.82 Days	\$3,742
Outpatient Drug Treatment Days	\$15.09	128.97	\$1,946
Outpatient Alcohol Treatment Days	\$10.57	23.92	\$253
Residential Days	\$106.00	31.72	\$3,362
Detoxification Days	\$108.64	0.00	\$0
UA Drug Tests	\$15.00	7.69	\$115
<b>Total CFC</b>			<b>\$12,147</b>

Note: Average costs per participant have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.



# PROGRAM COST PER PARTICIPANT

## MARION COUNTY

Transaction	Transaction unit cost	Average number of transactions per FATC participant	Average cost per FATC participant (n = 29)
FATC Court Appearances	\$218.02	13.38	\$2,917
Case Management	\$18.96	349.78 Days	\$6,632
Outpatient Drug Treatment Days	\$15.09	113.22	\$1,708
Residential Days	\$110.15	24.63	\$2,713
Detoxification Days	\$108.64	0.19	\$21
Drug Tests	\$14.08	25.54	\$360
<b>Total FATC</b>			<b>\$14,351</b>

Note: Average costs per participant have been rounded to the nearest whole dollar amount.



## PROGRAM COST PER PARTICIPANT BY AGENCY JACKSON COUNTY

Agency	Average cost per CFC participant
Circuit Court	\$1,392
DHS	\$3,653
Health and Human Services	\$320
Addictions Recovery Center	\$188
Access, Inc.	\$215
Community Works	\$210
OnTrack, Inc.	\$385
CASA	\$99
Family Nurturing Center	\$67
Southern Oregon Public Defender, Inc.	\$57
Treatment	\$5,561
Total	\$12,147

Of the total investment cost 45% was paid for treatment, 30% for DHS (case workers), 5% services for children.



# PROGRAM COST PER PARTICIPANT BY AGENCY

## MARION COUNTY

Agency	Average cost per FATC participant
Circuit Court	\$1,685
DHS	\$2,814
Health Department	\$787
Parole and Probation	\$728
Family Building Blocks	\$3,003
Valley Mental Health	\$892
Treatment (OHP)	\$4,442
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$14,351</b>

Of the total investment cost 31% is for treatment, 21% for services for the child with the parent, 20% DHS.



# Outcome Costs per Participant

## (Criminal Justice, Treatment and Child Welfare)

### (MARION COUNTY, OREGON)

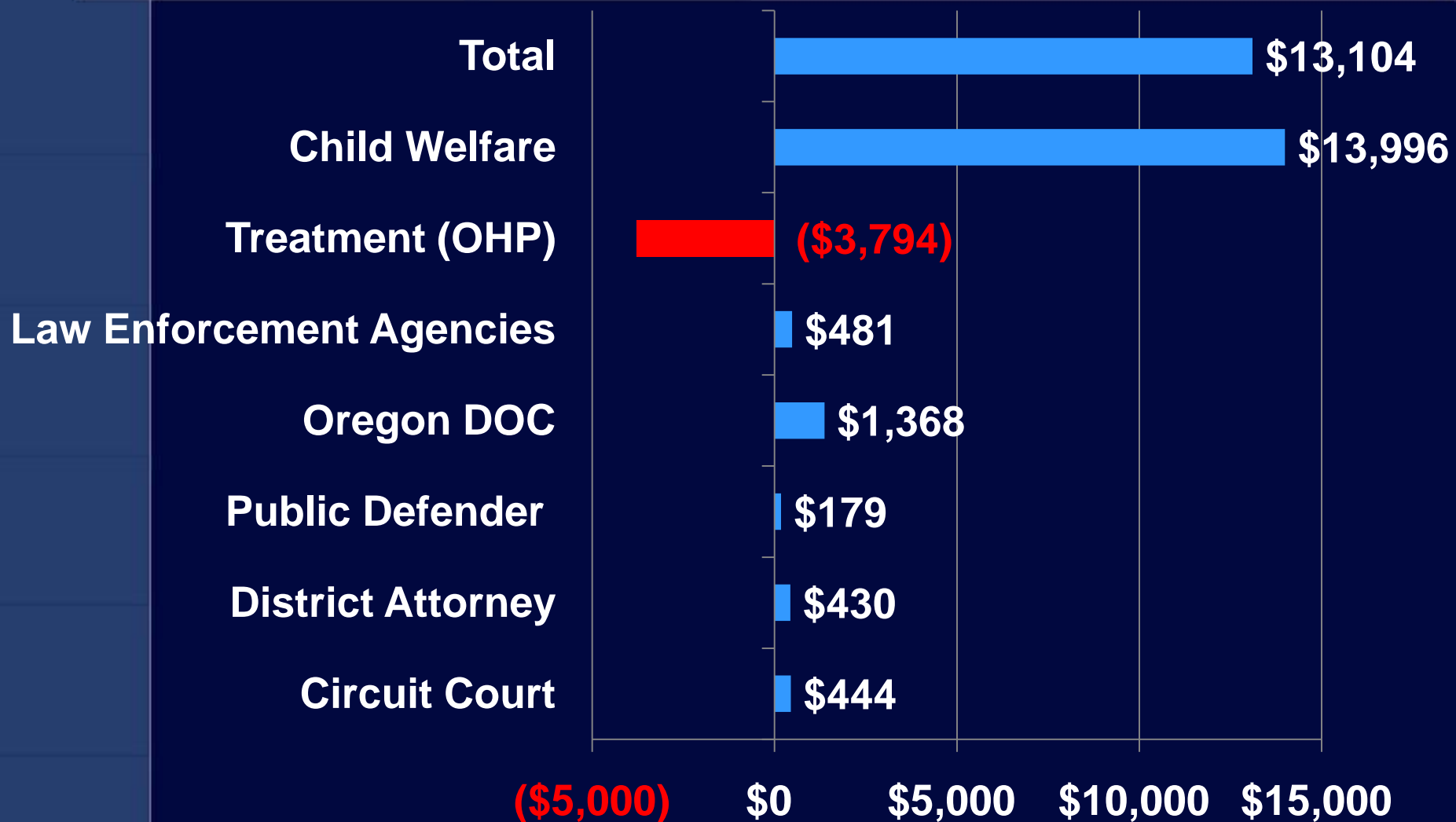
Transaction	Transaction unit cost	FATC participants (n = 28)	Comparison group (n = 29)
Arrests	\$209.46	\$69	\$140
Court Cases	\$3,097.41	\$1,022	\$2,075
Probation Days	\$8.11	\$367	\$833
Parole Days	\$12.34	\$0	\$0
Jail Days	\$85.00	\$225	\$170
Prison Days	\$77.78	\$279	\$1,647
Outpatient Drug Treatment Days	\$10.57	\$2,563	\$1,303
Outpatient Alcohol Treatment Days	\$15.09	\$20	\$296
Residential Treatment Days	\$110.15	\$4,522	\$1,681
Detoxification Days	\$108.64	\$23	\$53
Foster Care Days	\$24.01	\$12,708	\$26,704
Total		\$21,798	\$34,902



# Savings per Participant by Agency

## (Criminal Justice, Treatment and Child Welfare)

### (MARION COUNTY, OREGON)

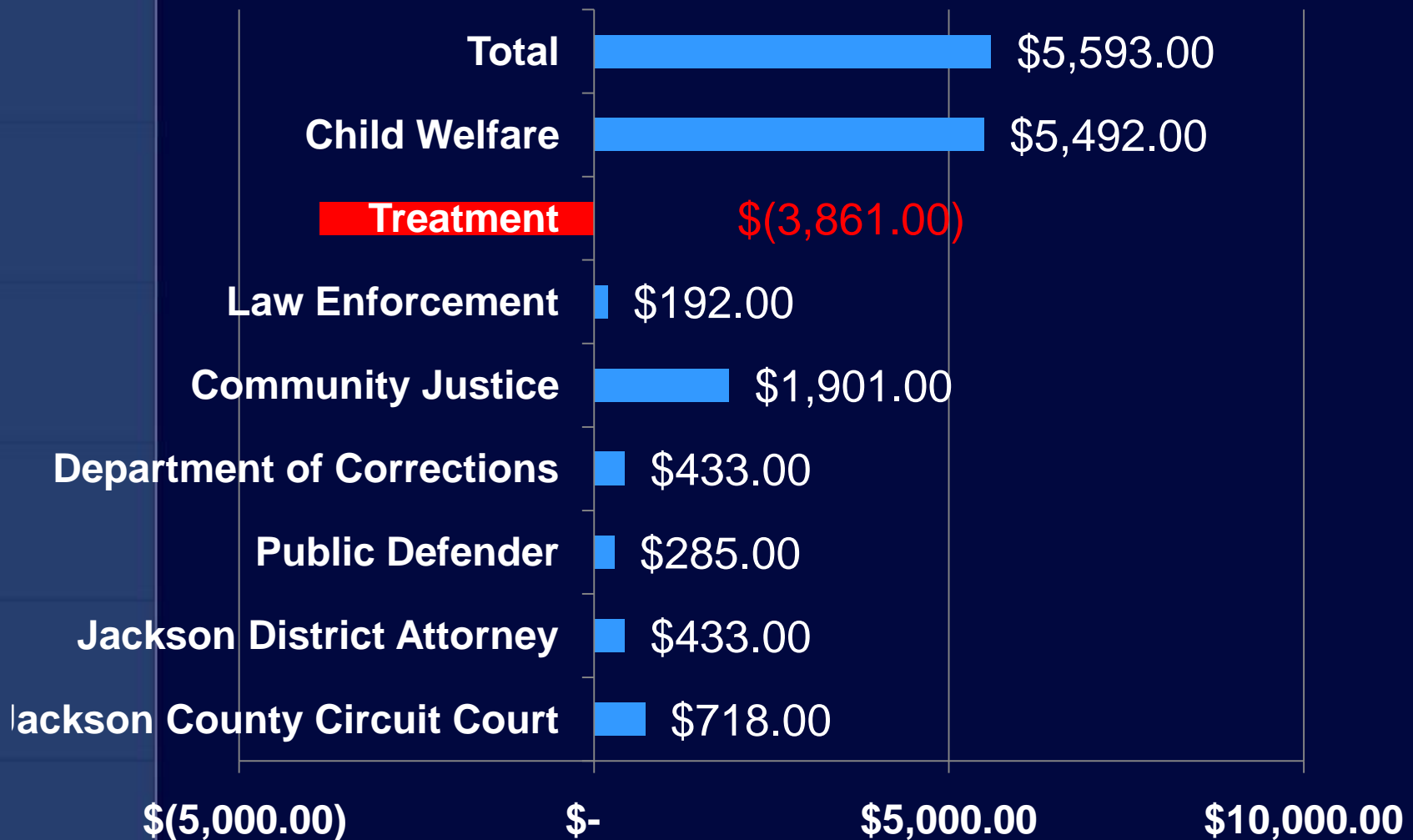




# Savings per Participant by Agency

## (Criminal Justice, Treatment and Child Welfare)

### (MARION COUNTY, OREGON)







## Outcome Costs per Participant (Criminal Justice, Treatment and Child Welfare)

Cost savings after 2 years was

Marion = **\$13,104**

Jackson = **\$5,593**

per FDTC participant

# What was different?

**Marion:** Of the investment budget

- 31% went to D&A treatment
- 20% to DHS
- 21% for services for the child (with the parent).

**Jackson:** Of the investment budget:

- 45% went to D&A treatment
- 30% to DHS (foster care)
- 5% for services for the child.

# Best Practices

- ✓ **Focus on services to child and parents, particularly together** (True in juvenile drug court too)
- ✓ **Parenting Classes** (True in adult, family, juvenile)
  - \* **Adult drug courts that offer parenting classes have 68% greater reductions in recidivism and 52% greater cost savings**

# **Adult Best Practices Apply to Dependency Court?**

- ✓ **Focus on services to child and parents, particularly together** (True in juvenile drug court too)
- ✓ **Parenting Classes** (True in adult, family, juvenile)
  - \* **Adult drug courts that offer parenting classes have 68% greater reductions in recidivism and 52% greater cost savings**

# Do Adult Best Practices Apply to Dependency Court?

- ☐ Drug courts that offer family/domestic relations counseling have 65% greater reductions in recidivism
- ☐ Drug Courts that expect participants to have greater than 90 days clean before graduation had 164% greater reductions in recidivism
- ☐ Drug courts where sanctions are imposed immediately after non-compliant behavior had 100% greater cost savings

# Do Adult Best Practices Apply to Dependency Court?

- ☐ Drug courts where the judge spends an average of 3 minutes or greater per participant during status review hearings have 153% greater reductions in recidivism
- ☐ Drug Courts where a representative from treatment attends staffings had 105% greater reductions in recidivism
- ☐ Drug courts where the defense attorney attends staffings had 93% greater cost savings

# Do Adult Best Practices Apply to Dependency Court?

- ❑ Drug courts where law enforcement is a member of the drug court team had 87% greater reductions in recidivism
- ❑ Drug Courts where the program caseload (number of individuals actually participating at any one time) is less than 125 had 567% greater reductions in recidivism



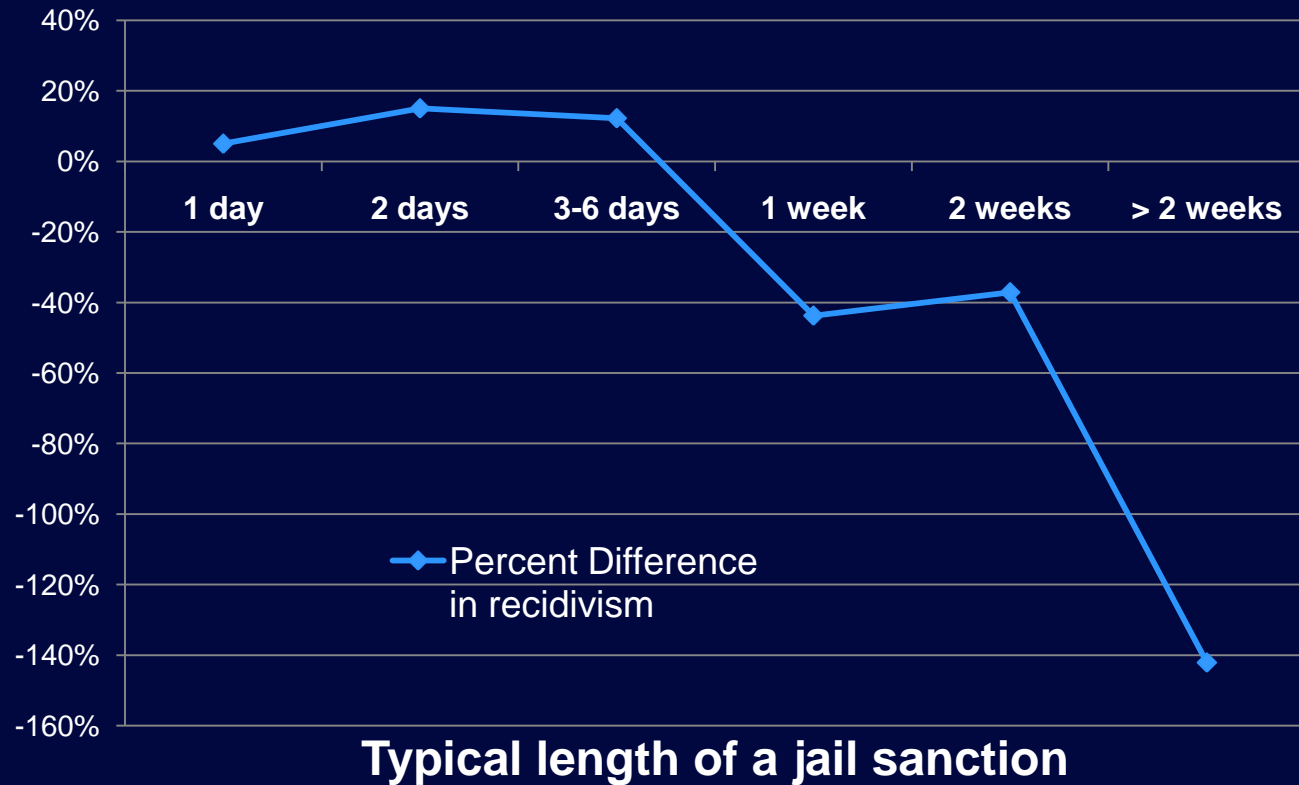
# Do Adult Best Practices Apply to Dependency Court?

- ☐ Drug courts where the results of program evaluations have led to modifications in drug court operations had 100% greater cost savings
- ☐ Drug courts that use greater jail time had worse recidivism



# More jail time is related to worse outcomes

**Figure 3: Percent difference in recidivism between courts that use differing amounts of jail sanction time**



# Questions?



# Contact Information

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To learn more about NPC or more about drug court evaluations including cost-benefit evaluations see:  
[www.npcresearch.com](http://www.npcresearch.com)